

1324

out of order
- THE WEEKLY FREE NO-THEME 'ZINE-

#0006 - XV - IX - MDCXX

Intro

Oh deadline, how I hate thee...

Still, I was somehow able to travel to Germany for a few days AND complete this week's **1324** zine well on time. Such a relief and what's more: I reckon this week's edition is the best yet! So what's inside? We've got cotton candy, flying elephants (not named dumbo), LEGO, claw machines, podcasts and more. Want to help the zine? Then please spread the love (=the magazine or our [website](#)) by Twitter/Facebook or whatever other medium. It really helps our cause and brings attention to all those wonderful people we're featuring every week, too. Take care and until next week!

Ivenne Mecking,
Editor 1324 - Out Of Order

Weather

Song for Shelter



Puerto Carreño
Colombia
30 °C / 86 °F



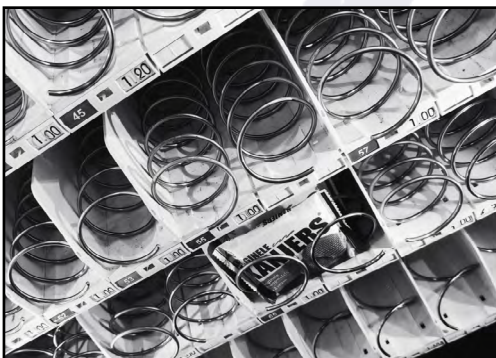
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
20 °C / 68 °F



Poona/Pune
India
28 °C / 82 °F

Out Now

Don't bother, currently out of order:



Is this what they mean by the phrase 'if it ain't Dutch it ain't much'? It's *Stroopwafels* or nothing. Seen in Arnhem, The Netherlands by yours truly. Oh and I wasn't even able to buy them! What a cruel little machine.

Go Dutch

In one word a week

'Reclameblok' (noun)
pronounce: ruh-clah-muh-block

This word translates to 'commercial break'

In a sentence
Ik doe wel een plas tijdens het reclameblok

I'll just take a pee during the commercial break

Also...

This word literally means 'multiple commercials' / a 'block' of commercials. Presenters can be heard saying '*We gaan er even uit voor de reclame*' which literally translates to 'We're going away for a short while because of the commercials'.



Little known facts

Cotton Candy

the spun sugar confection that resembles cotton, might have originated in Italy as early as the 15th century. It took until 1897 before the actual cotton-candy spinning machine was invented by William Morrison, a dentist(!). He must have done great business. Anyway, he teamed up with confectioner *John C. Wharton* and first introduced it to a wide audience at the 1904 St. Louis *World's Fair* as "Fairy Floss". These days you can buy it at fairs, amusement parks and for around \$30/€28/£25 you even buy your own floss machine. Mother nature will be...no let's not go there. If the flavour particularly excites you, you should be able to find candy floss flavoured energy drinks and soda's. Slightly more stylish is the [candy floss cocktail](#). The perfect day to toast? December 7. It's the day *National Cotton Candy Day* is celebrated in the USA! Well, duh.

Trivia

Plenty of questions. Can you come up with the answers?

- [01] What percentage of people is left-handed, 5 or 10%?
- [02] Name a liquid metal.
- [03] What material are most pantyhoses/tights made from?
- [04] Was Netscape an internet browser or radio technology?
- [05] What's the name of the (stupid) dog in the *Garfield* comics?
- [06] Which line of toys came first, *Polly Pocket* or *Mighty Max*?
- [07] Who invented the toothbrush, the Egyptians or the Romans?
- [08] Which company developed the original *Space Invaders* game?
- [09] What is the capital of Jordan: Amman or Addis Ababa?
- [10] *Queens* is borough of which city?
- [11] Apart from black, which cartridges are found in most printers?
- [12] Do the *My Little Ponies* toys have visible teeth?
- [13] In which constituent country was the singer *Duffy* born?
- [14] Name one of the three short films featured in **1324** (#5)?
- [15] What do the letters TLC from the TV station stand for?

Answers on page four.

From the Machine: The Claw game

Will this story grab you? We'll take our chances...

Picture a seaside in the 50's. A small boy and girl just took a break from building their sand castle and are visiting an arcade at the pier, while their parents are playing bingo. They got a few cents or pence and trying their luck at the crane game which is filled with sweets. They manage to grab a whole load of them and the claw nearly is at the chute...do I really have to finish this story? You know what's coming, don't you? Of course you do, because at one point or another we all fell victim to this evil contraption: the crane game. How did it come to be?

Grab us out of the money pit

The claw machine was invented in 1893, but it took until 1926 before it was actually released as a game. Why? No one really seems to know. What is known that the first mass-produced unit was launched in the USA in 1926. The machine was called the *Erie Digger*, a countertop glass box, with a tiny metal crane inside that could be raised and lowered with a simple wheel after inserting a penny or nickel. There were no plush animals or plastic watches inside, though. Only candy could be won. Still, a carnival-concessions operator named *William Bartlett* sensed a burgeoning market and developed his own version called the *Miami Digger* shortly thereafter. Where older cranes could only go up and down, his game allowed a player to move the crane around the box. Bartlett eventually controlled the claw empire from his beachside palace in Miami and helped usher in a new era of

art-deco claw machines of the '30s. The depression was on and strangely enough gambling was encouraged to stimulate the economy. Operators of the *Erie Diggers* began to replace the candy with silver dollars and paper currency to entice players to try the game. The US government even asked 'men of vision' to develop more of these machines for hotels and upscale storefronts. The claw machine enjoyed wild success until after the second world war, when the rise of Las Vegas sent the US congress scurrying to crack down on gambling. Early claw machines were considered gambling devices because a player could not sufficiently control his outcome. In the early '80s, though, riding on the success of arcade video games, interest in the claw machine revived. Manufacturers designed a machine that met all the qualifications for a skill game, allowing the claw to be freely controlled by a joystick. This design gave a convincing appearance of skill to courts, and thus became the claw machine we know today.

Big Choice vs the UFO Catcher

'Claws of yore' mostly had candy in them, but after World War II operators used Japanese novelty items mixed in with the silver dollars and dimes. You could say that was the missing link between the candy in the original machines and the endless amounts of cheaply produced (plush) toys found

in today's claw machines. A few types of claw machines were so popular that they're still seen (or even made) today. One of them was the *Big Choice* by a Belgian(!) company called 'Betson', another was the *UFO Catcher* by the video game giant SEGA. Technology is still moving forward though, as these days there's plenty of ways to 'play the claw' without even leaving your house. The *Prize Claw* series of games for mobile phones have been downloaded over 60,000,000 times despite the fact all prizes won just consist of pixels. An even more recent development are the 'online claw machines'. You simply buy some credits and get to play a claw machine that resides somewhere in China by the means of webcams. If you actually manage to win a prize (we reckon the chances are as slim as in 'real life') it will get shipped to you. You'll soon learn the truth, as we will give this a try and will be reporting on our findings in the next issue of **1324**.



A SEGA *UFO Catcher*, as seen in Akihabara. They only have two arms, instead of the three on most other machines. Picture by: IQRemix

Block-adder

Updates from the world of LEGO. In this edition: Bridges, frames and pipes.



The LEGOsteine-brücke in Wuppertal is a little walk from the city center, but worth a visit.

Bridging the gap

Apart from the Schwebebahn, there were of other places of interest in Wuppertal. One of them was the *LEGOsteine-brücke* which crosses over the Schwesterstraße in the northern part of the city.

As you probably expected, it's not actually made from huge LEGO bricks, but rather cleverly painted in yellow, red, blue and green. It was realised by graffiti/street-artist Martin Heuwold in 2011 and even won the *Architekturpreis* the following year. It's certainly worth a quick visit if you're ever in Wuppertal.

60 bricks a second

Twitter used *idspispopd* (yes, she likes that particular game) launched another her ideas on the LEGO ideas hub. Her project? A *LEGO rendition* of the *Nvidia GeForce 256* graphics card. Her earlier LEGO projects include the *Creative Soundblaster Pro 2* sound card and a 3dfx Voodoo graphics card, so

you could say she's rather enthusiastic about the days DOS gaming, DMA channels and IRQ interrupts. If you want to help make the projects become reality: you know where to go!

No P on the blocks

You're probably already up to speed, but if not: LEGO recently released a 231 piece *Adventures with Mario starter course* set. It has a pipe, goomba, a ? block, a flag pole and (of course) Mario itself. The playset is not just static, Mario has LCD screens in his eyes, mouth and belly(!) and can display over 100 different reactions. Also included is a speaker that plays sounds and music from the video game. The set (71360) retails for \$60/£50/€60.

Flying Trains (2): The Wuppertal Express

How a simple Youtube video got us travelling to Germany

Just a few weeks ago (in 1324, issue #3 to be exact) we reported on the 'flying train' (*Schwebebahn*) in Wuppertal, Germany. The track was built in the early 20th century (1901, to be exact), but is still in operation today. Since we at **1324** have the luxury of living relatively close to the place we decided to give you a hands-on experience. We booked some train tickets and a hotel room and off we went...or so we thought. Before we even got on the train a friendly German gentleman got in touch via Twitter and informed us 'Beware, the Schwebebahn is only running on weekends at the moment.' So, what days did we book? Thursday and Friday. Stuffed. Or were we? The Twitter handle of this gentleman left us with a sliver of hope: 'wuppertroll'. Was he actually winding us up? The tickets were non-refundable so we went to Wuppertal on an early Thursday morning. After roughly two hours we could see the first parts of the track with our own eyes.



Arriving in Wuppertal. Mountains, dainty churches, industry, the *wupper* river: the lot.

After arriving at *Wuppertal Hbf* (Central Station) it didn't take long before we spotted a poster that confirmed what we already feared: the *Schwebebahn* was not in operation. Great. Time for plan B: find out as much as we could about it and take pictures along (=from below) the track. The *Schwebebahn* station closest to Hbf was just outside the station itself on a street called 'Alte Freiheit' (old freedom). The entrance was blocked by shutter gate, but you could peek inside the station from the street. There was no sign of the train itself, which made sense (we'll come back to that in a bit). The area surrounding the central station stop of the *Schwebebahn* is quite messy at the moment, because there was a lot of construction going on near the river. We told you in issue three that 'the track even hovers above the river Wupper at one point.' It turned out that was a bit of an under-



The track near Wuppertal Hbf. It's crazy to see stations are actually 'floating' too.

statement, because *most* of the track actually hovers above the *wupper* river. There's two stories to tell about the *Schwebebahn* and the *wupper* river. The first is rather sad. In the early morning of April 12, 1999 one compartment of a train derailed and crashed into the river below and the broken off bogie crashed through the ceiling of the wagon, killing 5 passengers and injuring 46 others. The accident was caused by a tool that was left on the rails by a worker the night before. The second story is just bizarre. In 1950, a local circus thought it would be a great publicity stunt to have one of their elephants ride the train. *Tuffi* (the elephant) panicked and crashed right through one of the panels of the cart and into the river below. Despite the drop of 10 meters (30ft), the unfortunate animal thankfully survived and pictures of elephants can now be seen all over the city. The Wuppertal Touristik (Tourist information office) even sells *Schwebebahnnudeln*, train-shaped pasta which has a picture of *Tuffi* falling into the river on the front of the box. They also have pin badges of three types of trains that could be



Oh *Tuffi* what have they done to you...

seen on the tracks, including the classical *Kaiserwagen*, which is actually still used on special occasions. But, back to the real thing, why wasn't it in operation? According to the *Stadtwerke Wuppertal*, the bogies of many trains are in pretty dire shape and in desperate need of repair/refurbishment. Currently, there are simply not enough safe trains to run a full service. It's expected this will take until 2021, so if you're planning on visiting Wuppertal just to ride it: beware. There's plenty of other interesting things to do in Wuppertal, though. The LEGO-steine Brücke is a bridge painted like it was made from LEGO bricks, there's a few museums and, best of all, the *Gaskessel*, a huge gas tank that was transformed into a museum, complete with a 'Skywalk' (with a great view of the city) and an utterly amazing lightshow which has to be seen to be believed. Interestingly, when you travel to the nearest station (*Wuppertal Oberbarmen*) and cross the footbridge (seen below) you're on the same level as the final station of the *Schwebebahn*. Most of the trains are stationed inside.



[Top] The final station on the eastern side of the *Schwebebahn*: Wuppertal Oberbarmen, as seen from the *Gaskessel* skywalk.



[Above] As close as we got to the trains itself. This photo was taken from the top of the footbridge.

So, there you have it. We sadly didn't get to experience riding the *Schwebebahn* this time, but it's not unlikely we'll return to Wuppertal at a later point in time. If we do, the *Schwebebahn* will certainly make a return in **1324**.

FREE: Food

Glorious food. Is it worth the waiting for?

UK bakery chain *Greggs* is giving away free sweet treats worth £1 to people had a birthday in March or April and were unable to celebrate it (because of you know what). To claim it you just have to download the *Greggs Rewards* app.

If you're a student that just celebrated your birthday you're also in luck, as the studentbeans *Freshers wheel* has returned and prizes include free vegan sausage rolls from *Greggs*, £5 Boohoo vouchers and discounts from the likes of *PC World*, *Nintendo* and *Ultimate Ears*. We know this promo won't be of use to most of our readers, but there's always next week's *FREE*, isn't there?

[\[Freshers Wheel\]](#)

P's in a Pod

Everything podcast

This week's featured podcast is called *Anyone for seconds?*

Podcast description:

"The show that asks whether things are truly that bad and if "Anyone For Seconds"? Hosted by Dave and, occasionally, Matt. Join our intrepid heroes on a journey as they scrape the bottom of the barrel for potential gold in the film, music and video game landscape!"

Topic(s):

Film, music, video games

Running since:

February 2020, latest episode: #22

[\[Anyone for seconds?\]](#)

Quality Quote

Words to go by

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'"

-Audrey Hepburn

Leaf Arts

Did he? Again?!

Designboom reports:

'From grocery stores inhabited by animals, to a rhinoceros washing the teeth of its calf, Japanese artist *lito leaf art* carves the most amusing sceneries on tree leaves using a very precise cut-out technique. A closer inspection of each piece reveals surprising details that create dreamy narratives.

[...] placed against the sky, viewers are able to imagine worlds on these miniature creations. Sometimes surreal, other times scary, but every time beautiful and poetic, make sure you visit the artist's Instagram and Twitter accounts where they post each new creation, together with a short but sweet story.

[\[Read the full story\]](#)



Trivia: The Answers

Plenty of answers. Can you come up with the questions?

- [01] 10%
- [02] You could've picked from: Mercury, caesium, rubidium, francium or gallium
- [03] Nylon
- [04] It was a web browser. Not bad, either.
- [05] *Odie*
- [06] *Polly Pocket*. The PP toys were launched in '89, *Mighty Max* in '92.
- [07] The Egyptians. They also invented a primitive type of toothpaste.
- [08] *Taito*
- [09] Amman. You did see the *weather* section, didn't you?
- [10] New York
- [11] Cyan (blue), Magenta (red/pink) and Yellow. Some also have grey carts.
- [12] I had to look this up myself, the answer actually is no.
- [13] Wales
- [14] They were: *A Switch*, *Clanker Man* and *Relics*.
- [15] The Learning Channel.

See you next week?

